

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing communication between a computer application executing in a real-mode environment and a USB storage device, said system comprising:

a computer system including a storage means and a processing means;

a computer application capable of being executed utilizing said processing means,  
5 wherein said computer application executes in a real-mode environment in which USB is not supported;

a USB storage device coupled to said computer system; and

a real-mode driver operable to enable communication between said computer application executing in said real-mode environment and said USB storage device.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said storage means is selected from the group consisting of a hard drive, a floppy drive, an optical drive, RAM, SDRAM, and ROM; and wherein said processing means is a CPU.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein said computer application is a disaster recovery application.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein said USB storage device is a device selected from the group consisting of:

CDRW drive, a DVD drive, any other optical storage device, a ZIP drive, a SuperDisk drive, a floppy drive, a high floppy (HiFD) disk drive, any type of rotating magnetic storage  
5 device, and any type of sequential tape storage device.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said real-mode environment is the DOS operating environment.

6. A system for providing real-mode USB support for a disaster recovery application executing in a real-mode environment to allow a disaster recovery from a USB storage device which utilizes USB protocols, said system comprising:

a computer system including a storage means and a processing means;

a USB mass storage device coupled to said computer system;

a real-mode disaster recovery application executable by said processing means to recover data for said computer system, wherein said real-mode disaster recovery application is executable in an environment in which USB is not supported; and

a real-mode driver operable to enable communication between said disaster recovery application and said USB mass storage device to allow a disaster recovery to be accomplished by said disaster recovery application from said USB mass storage device.

7. The system of claim 6, further comprising:

said real-mode driver having a real-mode ASPI interface for providing mass storage protocols that enable interoperability of said real-mode disaster recovery application with said USB mass storage device for restoration of an operating system from said mass storage device.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the real-mode ASPI is a 16-bit interface.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein said real-mode driver further comprises Bulk-only and Control Bulk Interrupt Protocol Code, and USB hardware control code.

10. The system of claim 7, wherein said real-mode driver further comprises UHCI/OHCI code.

11. The system of claim 6, wherein said storage means is selected from the group consisting of a hard drive, a floppy drive, an optical drive, RAM, SDRAM, and ROM; and wherein said processing means is a CPU.

12. The system of claim 6, wherein said USB mass storage device is a device selected from the group consisting of:

CDRW drive, a DVD drive, any other optical storage device, a ZIP drive, a SuperDisk drive, a floppy drive, a high floppy (HiFD) disk drive, any type of rotating magnetic storage device, and any type of sequential tape storage device.

13. The system of claim 6, wherein said real-mode environment is the DOS operating environment.

14. A method for providing real-mode USB support for a computer application executing in a real-mode environment to enable communication between the computer application and a USB mass storage device which utilizes mass storage USB protocols, said method comprising:

5       executing a computer application in a real-mode environment of a computer system in which USB is not supported;

      providing a USB storage device coupled to said computer system, wherein said USB mass storage device contains data desired by said computer application; and

10       utilizing a real-mode driver to enable communication between said computer application executing in a real-mode environment and said USB mass storage device such that said computer application may retrieve said desired data from said USB mass storage device.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said computer application is a disaster recovery application and said desired data is data for restoring an operating system for said computer system from said USB mass storage device.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprises:  
      saving backup data from said computer system to said USB mass storage device; and  
      executing said disaster recovery application to recover said backup data from said USB mass storage device to said computer system.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein said real-mode driver is implemented within at least one of said computer application and said USB mass storage device.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising:

utilizing said real-mode driver to render an ASPI interface for providing mass storage protocols that enable interoperability of said computer application with said USB mass storage device.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein said USB mass storage device is a device selected from the group consisting of:

CDRW drive, a DVD drive, any other optical storage device, a ZIP drive, a SuperDisk drive, a floppy drive, a high floppy (HiFD) disk drive, any type of rotating magnetic storage device, and any type of sequential tape storage device.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein said real-mode environment is the DOS operating environment.